

Michigan Association for Purebred Dogs



Michigan Hunting Dog Federation



Position Paper - House Bill 4465

Arm Chair Hunting via the Internet – A Sport?

House Bill 4465 is to prohibit the use of the internet to operate a firearm, bow, or crossbow for the purpose of taking an animal, whether or not the animal is located in Michigan. (Herein lies potential constitutional problems of interstate and international commerce.)

The Michigan Hunting Dog Federation (MHDF) and the Michigan Association for Pure Bred Dogs (MAPBD) have serious reservations about the wisdom of using this modern technology to participate in recreational hunting.

For thousands of years, man has hunted and taken game to provide food and clothing for his survival. More recently, hunting provides both the rural and the urban citizens an opportunity to enjoy the activity in the game's natural environment, and to demonstrate the ability to be self-sufficient in meeting family needs.

With the increase in the human population and decrease in availability of space for game animals and birds, the need to regulate the use of our renewable resources becomes increasingly important. We believe the use of this high-tech method of taking game would have a detrimental effect on our wildlife resources and discourage traditional hunting practices—as well as the educational and recreational value thereof. Additionally, we envision game being wounded and dying a slow painful death instead of the “quick, clean kill” we strive for with conventional methods. We also anticipate that remote control killing of game will lead to a waste of wildlife resources, because the armchair hunter will hardly be able to field-dress the game.

In addition, our ability to maintain a viable population of our wildlife and prevent overpopulation of individual species would be greatly challenged. The benefits of maintaining more traditional forms of harvesting our wildlife resources far exceeds the benefits of using remote, high technology methods.

For the above reasons, and the probability that more reasons will be recognized only with experience with the prohibited activity, the MHDF and the MAPBD support enactment of HB 4465.

Perhaps the development and examination of this unique system of harvesting game could be evaluated with careful attention to the unexpected consequences before a final acceptance can be achieved. Until that has occurred, it is in the best interest of the conservation of our natural wildlife resources to say NO.

Prepared by Al W. Stinson, BS, DVM, MS—Professor Emeritus, MSU
Director of Legislative Affairs:

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1915 Epley Rd, Williamston, MI 48895-9488

Phone: 517-655-5363; Fax: 517-655-3724; E-mail: LSFC2@aol.com

Promoting Responsible Dog Ownership